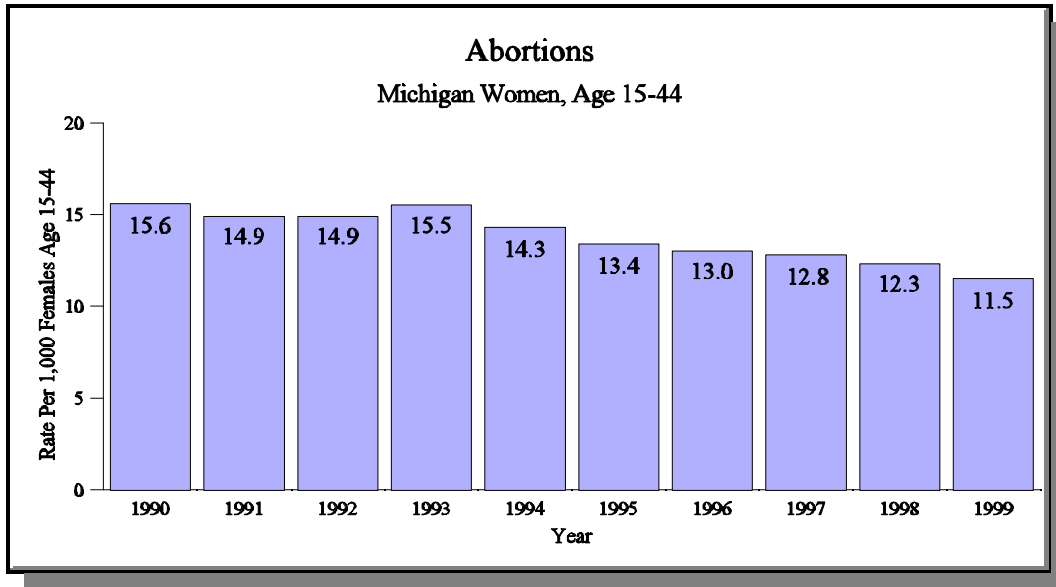


Focused Indicators

Health Risk Behaviors

Abortions



Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH

How are we doing?

Abortion is defined as the purposeful induced termination of a pregnancy. Induced abortions are typically the result of unintended pregnancies that can be reduced through access to adequate family planning services. Adequate access to family planning services can reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancies and therefore reduce the need for abortion.

There were a total of 25,388 induced abortions among Michigan women in 1999, resulting in a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 women aged 15-44. Abortion rates have declined 26 percent since 1990 when the abortion rate was 15.6.

In 1999, 54.2 percent of Michigan women who obtained an induced abortion had no previous induced abortion. In general, a gradual increase has been observed with the proportion of women reporting two or more induced abortions from 16.6 percent in 1990 to 20.4 percent in 1999.

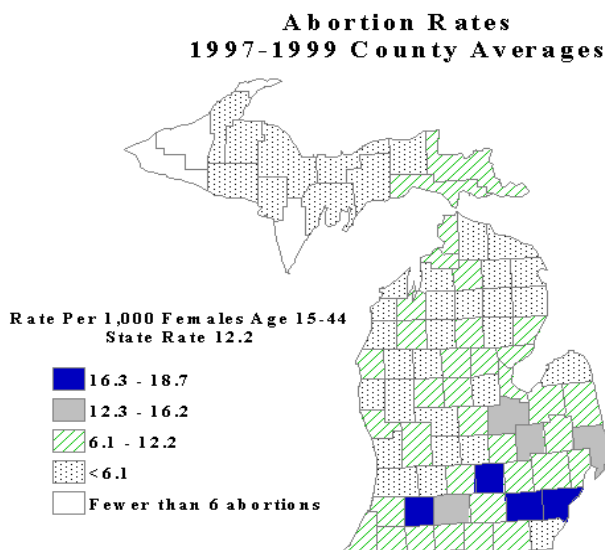
How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

Typically the Michigan abortion rate has been lower than the U.S. rate. In 1996, the most recent year for which national figures are available, the Michigan induced abortion rate of 13.0 was 35 percent lower than the U.S. rate of 20.0.

How are different populations affected?

Eighty-four percent of induced abortions were to unmarried women in 1999. It should be noted, however, that women of all reproductive ages, married and unmarried, and in all income categories have abortions.

Almost half of all abortions are to Michigan women age 25 and over. The proportion of younger women having abortions has decreased significantly in recent years. In 1990, 58.2 percent of abortions were to Michigan women under 25 years old; this percentage had decreased to 51.1 percent in 1999. Abortions to teenagers account for almost all of this decline; the proportion of abortions to teenagers decreased from 25.3 percent in 1990 to 19.1 percent in 1999.



What other information is important to know?

Abstinence is the most effective means of avoiding unintended pregnancy. Effective family planning and the avoidance of unintended pregnancy can reduce the number of abortions.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?

The department is actively working towards abortion prevention through family planning services and efforts of the Michigan Abstinence Partnership. Family planning providers, through contracts with the department, offer contraceptives and reproductive health services to encourage fertility control that promotes the health and well-being of women, children, and families. The strong educational and counseling components of the program help to reduce health risks and promote healthy behaviors. In 1999, services were provided to 162,254 women and 4,639 men through the family planning program.

The Michigan Abstinence Partnership (MAP) Program was developed by the department in 1993. The MAP Program aims to positively impact adolescent health problems by promoting abstinence from sexual activity and related risky behaviors such as the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. A comprehensive approach targeting 9-17 year old youth and their parents is used and includes activities that are designed to meet the specific needs of the community. These activities are developed and implemented by local coalitions that are made up of members that reflect the diversity of the community and target population. Each community develops a community action plan detailing coalition-based activities uniquely targeted to the youth and families in their area.

In fiscal year 1999, eighteen funded agencies provided programming to 50,677 youth and parents.

Last Updated: January 2001

Induced Abortion Rates

by County of Residence, State of Michigan, 1997-1999

County of Residence	Rate
Michigan	12.2
Wayne County	18.7
City of Detroit	27.2
Ingham County	17.5
Kalamazoo County	17.1
Washtenaw County	16.3
Genesee County	15.0
Calhoun County	13.4
St. Clair County	13.1
Saginaw County	12.6
Macomb County	12.0
Jackson County	12.0
Berrien County	11.4
Muskegon County	11.2
Oakland County	10.9
Mackinac County	10.3
Van Buren County	10.1
Roscommon County	9.9
St. Joseph County	8.8
Isabella County	8.7
Bay County	8.5
Kent County	8.4
Livingston County	8.1
Cass County	8.1
Eaton County	7.9
Lapeer County	7.9
Grand Traverse County	7.9
Branch County	7.8
Arenac County	7.6
Iosco County	7.5
Sanilac County	7.3
Charlevoix County	7.1
Mason County	6.9
Otsego County	6.9
Gladwin County	6.8
Tuscola County	6.7
Hillsdale County	6.6
Shiawassee County	6.6
Mecosta County	6.6
Gratiot County	6.5
Clare County	6.5
Emmet County	6.2
Chippewa County	6.1

Lenawee County	6.1
Wexford County	6.1
Luce County	6.0
Allegan County	6.0
Benzie County	5.8
Oceana County	5.8
Alcona County	5.7
Montcalm County	5.6
Clinton County	5.6
Leelanau County	5.5
Monroe County	5.4
Alger County	5.4
Ionia County	5.3
Osceola County	5.3
Manistee County	5.3
Barry County	5.3
Midland County	5.3
Ottawa County	5.2
Ogemaw County	5.1
Kalkaska County	5.1
Alpena County	5.0
Montmorency County	4.9
Lake County	4.8
Antrim County	4.7
Huron County	4.4
Crawford County	4.3
Missaukee County	4.3
Marquette County	4.1
Cheboygan County	3.9
Presque Isle County	3.7
Baraga County	3.5
Oscoda County	3.5
Newaygo County	3.5
Schoolcraft County	3.4
Houghton County	3.1
Delta County	1.6
Iron County	1.4
Dickinson County	0.8

Note: Unknown county of residence is included in the state total only. The rate is the number of reported induced abortions to Michigan residents per 1,000 Michigan women aged 15-44.

Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH.

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